

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-29 (Cancel).

30. (New) A communication network supporting wireless communication comprising:
at least one roaming wireless terminal node selectively operable in a sleep mode and in an awake mode;

at least one bridging node for relaying messages, the bridging node storing messages for wireless terminal nodes and transmitting at predetermined intervals a first message that indicates the presence of pending messages, the bridging node forwarding a stored message upon request from a wireless terminal node; and

the wireless terminal node, while in a sleep mode, wakes to listen to a first message transmitted from a bridging node to determine whether to request a pending message.

31. (New) A communication network as recited in claim 30 wherein the bridging node determines whether a wireless terminal node has been disconnected from the network.

32. (New) A communication network as recited in claim 31 wherein the bridging node considers whether a wireless terminal node is in a sleep mode in making a determination of whether the wireless terminal node has been disconnected.

33. (New) A communication network as recited in claim 30 wherein the terminal node includes a transceiver and when in the sleep mode the terminal node disables the transceiver.

34. (New) A communication network supporting wireless communication comprising:
at least one terminal node having a wireless transceiver operable in a normal state and in a power saving state;

at least one bridging node having a wireless transceiver to support communication to a terminal node, a bridging node attempting to deliver a message destined for a terminal node operating in a normal state upon receipt of the message by the bridging node and the bridging node attempting to deliver a message destined for a terminal node operating in a power saving

state by transmitting at predetermined intervals a first message identifying terminal nodes having a pending message awaiting delivery;

a terminal node operating in the power saving state synchronizing operation of its transceiver to receive the first message from a bridging node and when the terminal node determines from the first message that it has a pending message awaiting, the terminal node directing further operation of its transceiver to receive the pending message.

35. (New) A communication network as recited in claim 34 wherein the terminal node transmits to a bridging node an indication of whether the terminal node is operating in the power saving state.

36. (New) A communication network as recited in claim 34 wherein a terminal node that directs further operation of its transceiver to receive a pending message does so to receive the pending message in a time period that follows one of the received first messages.

37. (New) A communication network as recited in claim 36 wherein the time period immediately follows the one of the received first messages.

38. (New) A communication network as recited in claim 34 wherein a terminal node requests a pending message when the terminal node determines from the first message that it has a pending message awaiting delivery.

39. (New) A communication network as recited in claim 34 wherein the bridging node stores messages awaiting delivery.

40. (New) A communication network as recited in claim 39 wherein the messages awaiting delivery remain stored until delivery is successful or until a predetermined number of first messages occur where delivery is unsuccessful.

41. (New) A communication network as recited in claim 36 wherein the time period follows the received first messages during an awake time window.

42. (New) A communication network as recited in claim 41 wherein the terminal node requests that the pending message be delivered during the awake time window.

43. (New) A method for operating a bridging node and a roaming wireless terminal node in a communication network comprising:

- storing at a bridging node pending messages;

- transmitting from a bridging node at predetermined intervals, a first message indicating the presence of pending messages;

- operating the terminal node in a sleep mode;

- waking the terminal node to receive a first message;

- determining at the terminal node from a received first message whether a bridging node has a stored pending message for the terminal node; and

- requesting a pending message if a pending message is determined to be stored at a bridging node for the terminal node.

44. (New) A method for operating a roaming wireless terminal node in a communication network having at least one bridging node that transmits at predetermined intervals a first message indicating the presence of a pending message, comprising:

- operating in a sleep mode;

- waking to receive a first message;

- determining from a received first message whether there is a pending message for the terminal node; and

- requesting the pending message if it is determined from the first message that there is a pending message for the terminal node.

45. (New) A method for operating a bridging node in a communication network for communicating with a plurality of wireless roaming terminal nodes that operate in a sleep mode and that wake to receive messages, comprising:

- transmitting at predetermined intervals, a first message indicating the presence of pending messages for one or more terminal nodes;

receiving a request for a pending message from a terminal node that has determined from the first message that a pending message for the terminal node is present; and
transmitting the pending message to the terminal node in response to the received request.

46. (New) The method for operating a bridging node as recited in claim 45 including storing pending messages until a predetermined number of first messages have been transmitted and delivery is unsuccessful.

47. (New) A method for operating a bridging node and a roaming wireless terminal node in a communication network comprising:

transmitting from a bridging node at predetermined intervals, a first message indicating the presence of a pending message;

operating the terminal node in a sleep mode;

waking the terminal node to receive a first message;

determining at the terminal node from a received first message the presence of a pending message for the terminal node; and

requesting a pending message if a pending message for the terminal node is determined to be present.